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President's Message

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2019-2021

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Hello everybody:

How are you holding up? This is the question I hear most often these days. I am sure it is the same for you. My husband Bill and I are doing fairly well. Bill still enjoys going grocery shopping weekly and I am quite happy to let him handle this task, as shopping in general is not a favorite activity of mine.

I go for solitary walks every day and have developed a sort of kinship with fellows walkers as, when our paths cross, usually one of us on the sidewalk and the other one in the middle of the street (I live in a quiet area), the "Hi!" and the smiles remind us that we are all in this together and that we all depend on each other to render this virus as harmless as possible. To quote a Persian poet (and Abraham Lincoln): "This too shall pass".

In this issue, you will find a variety of articles, some short, some longer. We all know Al Munro, our treasurer, membership chairman and past president, but the philosophy behind and the extend of his and his wife Marion's collecting make for an interesting read. As well, a story about unusual woods from Alaska, a campground and "pancake toss"(???) reminds us of warmer and better times to come.

If all this "Stay the blazes home" time brings you to revisit your collection, please take the time to write us about a new-to-us rediscovery of yours, or a story about your all-time favorite wood. Our bank of articles is emptying fast. Your editor will be happy to hear from you!

Stay safe!

France

My mom Fernande is 96.
Let's stay safe for us and for them.



Featured Wood of the Month: MacKnight Motors

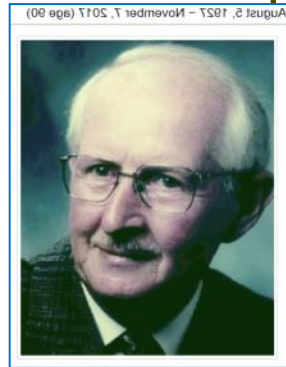


Norm Belsten gave Ross Kingdon 100 of each of these two MacKnight Motors woods (shown here) that he acquired when he bought someone's collection from New Brunswick. One is featured as a wood of this month, the other one will be featured in June.

MacKnight Motors Used Cars & Body Shop (MacKnight Motors Ltd.) was owned and operated by Alden MacKnight, who was known as "The Car Man" and "The Body Man" in Saint John, New Brunswick. Alden was born August 5, 1927 to the late Joseph and Harriet (Howland) MacKnight in Newcastle, New Brunswick.

Our former Editor (Judy Blackman) actually worked in Newcastle and lived \and worked in Chatham, N.B. about thirty-five years ago before deciding to return home to Ontario. She assisted with Information regarding these woods

Alden married Marjorie Buck and the couple made fond memories for the next sixty-seven years until his passing November 7, 2017 at age 90. He was survived by his wife Marjorie, seven children, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



Prior to being the owner and operator of MacKnight Motors Used Cars & Body Shop Alden worked for BF Goodrich, International Harvester co. and Saint John Motors Parts . He was innovative when it came to recycling. In his earlier years he was active in the Saint John Air Cadets Squadron #161. He passed away about five months after the 75th Anniversary (1942-2017)celebration of his Squadron (Alumni Reunion held June 3-4, 2017) at which a challenge coin was issued. Alden enjoyed history, gardening and was an avid reader.

It doesn't appear that Alden MacKnight was a member of the Saint John Coin Club or had any interest in numismatics, so these woods were strictly purchased as a merchant token or merchant business card likely but it's odd there is no address or phone number on them. As well, whether or not Alden MacKnight is related to the Fredericton Police Chief Barry MacKnight is unknown, so it's not likely these were issued for a DRIVE SAFELY community program.

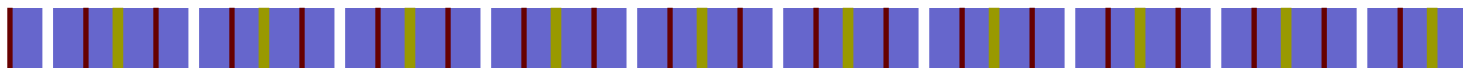
MacKnight is a big name in New Brunswick. Genealogy.com has a dedicated page for McKnight / MacKnight Monitor Newsletter which includes Reunions (held annually or at least once in every five years in New Brunswick) and in frequent attendance at these massive gatherings was Alden and Marjorie MacKnight. This group also issued DVDs of events, books on family history (3 volumes), recipes, family stories, cookbooks, golf shirts, and planned special trips and cruises. Alden sat on the Committee that look after memorial and historical stones. Of course in honour of the family's Scottish heritage bagpipes opened every event. CBC radio has often granted requests for a Happy Song to be played for Alden MacKnight. The two most requested songs were *The Mary Ellen Carter* (based on sinking of Marine Electric ship) by Stan Rogers (1979) and *A Daisy A Day* by Judd Strunk (1972). Alden loved bagpipes, folk and country music, and lots of laughter!

MacKnight Motors corporation was dissolved January 7, 2003 when Alden MacKnight was 77. As per Norm Belsten's catalog, both woods were issued in 1966 in quantities of 1,000 each, were initially rated R4 and bear numbers 3750-009 and 3750-010.

Spryfield Farmers Market's \$5 Tokens by Judy Blackman, CAWMC LM



In 2019 a small farmers market in the Spryfield area of Halifax (Nova Scotia) came up with a program to solve two problems in the community. The first goal is to allow people who have trouble affording fresh food to shop at the market. The second goal is to make it more convenient for shoppers who show up at the farmers market without cash since they can be purchased the serialized tokens (which are the size of a toonie) with credit or debit cards. All of the vendors at the market treat the tokens the same way as a \$5 bill, giving change in cash. Folks can also donate tokens to support two local food banks — the goal is to see at least a \$1,000 per month donation made to the banks.



Chips from the Woodpile

By Dave Gillespie

In the Spring of 1978 Timber Talk reported that the cost of mailing its newsletter would be increased by 2 cents to 14 cents.

That represented 2 cents x 12 newsletters or a 16.66% cost increase to the organization and took a bite out of the annual membership dues!!!

And in December of that same year John Brennan wrote an interesting personal article for Timber Talk that I would like to share with you. I know a lot of the older members will remember John. It was entitled: "WHY I COLLECT WOOD" - Here it goes:

Four years ago I had to have a cancer growth cut out of my chest, and after that I ran into healing problems. The doctors found me to be very tense and stressed, my blood pressure was also high due to worry. They suggested a serious hobby to get my mind off of my troubles, so I decided to collect coins and joined the City of Ottawa Coin Club. At the Club, I met Glenn Rodgers and he showed me a wooden nickel that he had made – that beautiful white on black walnut wood, it really appealed to me. I asked about the history and the background of it and with his explanation I decided to collect woods. What a great decision, the best I ever made! I wrote to Norman Wells and he sent me a free wood, and this really started me off. I then found Ed Parker in Winnipeg and J.D. Ferguson in Rock Island, Quebec and I was truly hooked on woods. I joined C.A.W.M.C. and made many good friends through the newsletters and mail like John Curtis, George Parfet and a host of other. Don Robb who would go to any lengths to help a fellow collector. Through Timber Talk, I wrote to a lot of old and new members and the spare hours flew by, my collection was growing, and my knowledge of Canada was increasing daily. The wonderful people I have met through C.A.W.M.C. is unbelievable and now I don't have the worry and stress. The only worry I have is wondering if the mail will run today. I look to the hobby for pleasure, knowledge, fond fellowship and for the best medicine to cure ills writing a letter to a fellow collector and making a trade or sending out a few free pieces to others. Continued success to all in C.A.W.M.C. and many thank for what you have done for me.

John Brennan

/continued

Chips from my Woodpile continued

In March 1979 Timber Talk provided it's readers with a Special Spruce Dollar Edition. The Chamber of Commerce for Prince George, the largest shipping centre of Western White Spruce in the world, was seeking a publicity idea in 1958 and one of it's resident, Mr. Harold Moffat had the answer. It became know as the "Prince George Spruce Dollar". The first issue struck that year commemorated the Grey Cup parade and 5000 were made. Each year since there has been a Chamber of Commerce issue up until 2011 when the final issue was made. Back issues became collectors items valued at \$3.75 and up. Local Merchants in Prince George honoured the Spruce Dollar but few were every cashed. The committee that fostered the Prince George Spruce Dollar quickly admitted that the woods surpassed their dream.

And Now for another Tom Hudson quiz question:

In 1968 where was the Bridge Club Christmas Party held ?

'Til next time Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie



Answer to the Chips Quiz Question from April 2020:

Q: Hi Rigger King of the Woods - What city put his picture on their wood?

A: Vancouver, British Columbia - wood # 9800-005 and 9800-006



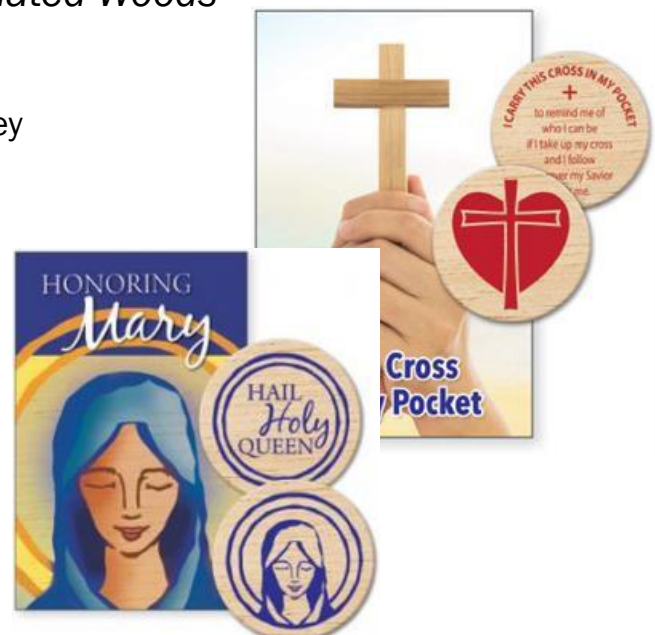
Catholic Shop in Stoney Creek Issues Worship-related Woods

submitted by Judy Blackman, CAWMC LM

Blais Church & Religious Supplies / Catholic Shop in Stoney Creek (Ontario) has served the religious community since 1979. It is a multifaceted Catholic company dedicated to being the most trust-worthy supplier of worship-related products for church, school and home.

This "The Cross In My Pocket" wood (comes with a Holy Card by David Mead. The wood design is by CCQuinn Press.

A "Hail Holy Queen" token is also offered.



submitted by Judy Blackman, CAWMC LM

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On October 14th, 2019, Alexandria MN Mayor Sara Carlson announced that “*Because of YOU* we are better” wooden tokens will be given when someone does something nice or constructive. The council felt that is a new way for residents to show their pride in the city – getting and giving “wooden nickels.”

While the tokens have no redeemable value, they were rolled out the week of October 13th, circulated through-out town and handed out to people who are “caught doing something good.” The idea came out of Alexandria being selected as the “*Best Minnesota Town*” by Minnesota Monthly magazine. The city hopes people who receive them will eventually pass them on to others who are doing good things in the city. What a fun way for a community to pass along an “inclusive family spirit” to its residents!

Alexandria got its start in 1858. Brothers Alexander and William Kinkead of Delaware traveled along the Red River Trail, stopping to establish a settlement on the shores of Lake Agnes. Alexander served as the first Postmaster. The town site was named “Alexandria” in his honor.

FOR SALE

COMPLETE SET OF MOTHER'S DAY WOODS (1991 TO 2000) NOW AVAILABLE FOR \$13.00

The common reverse is “Good for \$2.00 in trade”, as illustrated in the February 2020 issue of *IT*

Please contact: JOHN HNATIUK 4191 WALLER DRIVE RICHMOND BC
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THE MUNROS: WOODS AND HOBBY FELLOWSHIP

By Stan Turrini



"We have had coin thefts in our home. Coins were missing. Then we discovered that our beloved cat, 'Rocky', was going through the coin 2x2s and hiding these throughout our home. He likes gold coins and British Columbia souvenir coins. We are finding these around the house," chuckled Marion Munro.

The Munros, 'Al' and Marion, are passionate hobbyists and dedicated hobby supporters, from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Married thirty years, they met when both were employed with the Canadian national/federal government though now retired. They are both Chartered Accountants, equivalent to a 'CPA', Certified Public Accountant, in the United States.

'Al', as he is known to his many fellow coin hobbyists on both sides of the border, and Marion are true hobbyists. They collect wooden money, pins, and trade tokens, plus bottles. Marion zeros into Canadian Dollars, which her original collecting began with an inheritance, and as she stated, "I still have what my later father left me; these are treasured." Marion also pursues Canadian Half Dollars and Love Tokens. As noted, they both are advocates for wooden money.

Speaking of wooden money, 'Al' has been and is involved with the Canadian Association of Wood Money Collectors, commonly called 'CAWMC'. CAWMC gathers annually during the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) Conventions. 'Al' is CAWMC Treasurer and Membership Coordinator and the Auctioneer at the annual gathering, with Marion assisting with recording.

"You better pay your annual dues, for 'Al' is going to remind you that it is due," laughed fellow hobbyist and close American friend 'Doctor' Lloyd G. Chan, a 'Coin Celebrant' published in NUMISMATIC NEWS, March 5, 2019 issue.

'Al' began with stamps, as a teenager in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

"A local Roman Catholic monastery and its Brothers had regular correspondence with the Vatican. The envelopes were simply disposed. I asked that these be passed to me versus the trash/waste basket. The Brothers did," 'Al' recollected.

"Later when working for the national/federal Canadian government, I had coworkers from many countries. Well, I said 'drop these' envelopes into my trash/waste basket, which they did. You might say that I appreciated 'Free Collections', 'Al' chuckled.

Prior to the 1980s Al Munro only collected stamps but this was to change

In 1980, 'Al' was helping a friend of his mother sort her accumulation of world coins by identifying the accumulation and putting them in 2x2s. In the accumulation was a wooden token from the '3 Peaks Cafeteria' in Olds, Alberta. Al asked for and was given permission to take the wooden token to show Garry Braunwarth, the founder of Canadian Association of Wooden money Collectors. Garry was working in the same government building; But, Garry was not familiar with it.

‘Al’ remembers thinking, “If I can find one token that is not known by the founder of the wooden money organization I could probably find more and this was my chance to start a unique collection, which did not cost a large amount of money.” His mother’s friend gave Al the wooden coin, and this was the start of his wooden nickel collection. The rest is now history.

‘Al’ expanded his passion and pursuit into post Breton merchant tokens, non-military medals, medalions, Western Canadian trade tokens, spinners, encased cents, and calendar coins.

“I like to tell my fellow coin hobbyists that I collect anything that looks like a coin but is not a coin,” ‘Al’ laughed. He is always going to antique shops plus antique and collector shows, and at coin dealers and coin shows constantly going through display cases and junk boxes.

‘Al’ also does not hesitate showing his collection to co-workers and other friends. As the result of his efforts, Al has acquired and identified many one known items. His pursuit of new items has earned him the nickname of ‘Digger’.

His ‘digging’ does include Marion. “She enjoys the hobby as much as I do. Maybe it is the factor that keeps us together,” he remarked.

‘Al’ is quite active in Canadian numismatics. He is a member of and has held offices and positions with the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA), the Calgary Numismatic Society (CNS), and the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC). He worked on five (1987, 1995, 2005, 2012 and 2019) RCNA Conventions in Calgary. He assumed the position of chairman in 2005 when the late and respected Earl Salterio passed away and was co-chairman with James A. Williston in 2012. ‘Al’ is a *‘Fellow of the RCNA’*.

‘Al’s’ passion for collecting is evident by the fact he has been awarded Honorary Life Memberships in the Calgary Numismatic Society, Calgary Philatelic Society, Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors and the First Canadian Collectors Club, formerly the First Canadian Bottles and Specialties Club.

Both ‘Al’ and Marion have been regular presences at the annual RCNA Conventions, attending most all of the functions and supporting the events. At these annual gatherings, they readily meet their numerous fellow hobbyists and friends from both sides of the border. Marion has assisted with the Convention’s Hospitality and Spousal events.

“You might say that wooden money creates a coin community,” he suggested.

‘Al’ does conclude that wooden money is stronger ‘south of the border’ than in Canada, due to the number of wooden money issues and hobbyists. Yet, anyone attending an annual CAWMC cannot dismiss the enthusiasm and intensity of Canadian wooden money aficionados. For example, at the recent 2019 traditional breakfast meeting, the annual auction called by ‘Al’ earned over \$800.00!

One trait of Canadian wooden money advocates is the energized producing and giving away of personal wood issues, many with low and unique mintages.

“Looking into the future, I believe the future of numismatics rests with the pursuit of non-government issues or as I called it ‘the back of the book items,’ ‘Al’ concludes.

‘Al’s’ own eclectic pursuits confirms that observation; but, bring him an unknown trade token from western Canada, he would be most appreciative.

Sourdough Campground woods

by David Phillips

Two new woods have come my way, and both with a fun story accompanying them.

They are the Winner and Loser woods, from the Sourdough Campground in Tok, Alaska, on the Tok Cutoff, Hwy # 1 to Anchorage.

The woods are 1 ½" (38 m.m.) in size, and the printing and design are dark brown incised into a natural wood colored body.

125 of the Winner, and 625 of the Loser woods were made.

The woods were introduced starting the 2019 season at Sourdough Campground. They are given to those who participate in the nightly pancake toss (every night at 7:30 p.m., June 1st to August 31st).

Participants get two tries to toss a pancake into a "BUCKIT", approximately 20 ft. away. If they make it into the bucket, they get a Winner wood, they can exchange for breakfast in the morning. If the winner would like to keep their wood as a souvenir, then it will be dated and returned to the winner. All losers will get a Looser wood to commemorate their loss at the pancake toss too.

All visitors and locals in Tok are welcome to stop at the Sourdough Campground and participate in the World Famous Pancake Toss, held every night at 7:30 p.m., June 1st to August 31st.

My sincere Thanks to Tracy and Tim of Sourdough Campground & Cafe for their help and willingness to provide the above information.

(Note: if one drives up and back to Alaska from the lower 48 or from Canada, Tok is the only town you must drive through twice, thus allowing Alaskan visitors the opportunity to participate in this fun event twice !!)

From Editor: "BUCKIT" is the official spelling for the receptacle of the pancakes, as per the campground's website.

